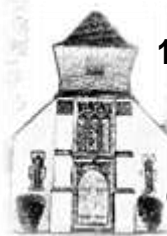


PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091



11th February 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Quinquagesima Sunday | 8.00am | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 10.00am | Mass – Int. People of the parish |
| Monday <i>Feria</i> | 9.30am | Mass |
| Tuesday <i>Feria</i> | 9.30am | Mass – Int. Margie Conway, RIP anni. |
| | 7.00pm | Mass Vigil of Ash Wednesday |
| Ash Wednesday Day of Fast and Abstinence | 9.30am | Mass |
| | 11.00am | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| Thursday <i>Lent Feria</i> | 6.00pm | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction |
| | 7.00pm | Mass |
| Friday <i>Lent Feria</i> | 9.00am | Mass |
| Saturday <i>Lent Feria</i> | 9.30am | Mass |
| | 10.15am – 11.00am | Confessions |
| Sunday 18th Feb. 1st Sunday of Lent | 8.00am | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | 10.00am | Mass – Int. People of the parish |

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. **Parents are encouraged to join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.

Last Sunday we enrolled our children: Rhys, Rio, Olivia, Sarah and Alex, who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of RECONCILIATION and HOLY COMMUNION for the first time this year.

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Today after the 10am Mass we will burn last year's palm crosses and branches, the remains will be used for the imposition of Ashes this week as we begin the season of Lent.

To help us make Lent a truly spiritual journey there are prayer booklets on sale at various prices in the porch.

Ash Wednesday this week is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.



Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

It is hard to imagine the life of oppression of those who lived with the skin disease that today's Gospel notes. Not only were they prevented from mingling with people, they needed to warn others of their existence. To approach Jesus was unthinkable for the afflicted man, and still he did so. To touch the leper was unthinkable for a person during Jesus' time, still Jesus did so. The 1971 World Synod of Bishops document *Justice in the World (Justitia in mundo)* states that the Christian is to unite with those who are on the margins of society. The bishops state: "Listening to the cry of those who suffer violence and are oppressed by unjust systems and structures, and hearing the appeal of a world that by its perversity contradicts the plan of its Creator, we have shared our awareness of the Church's vocation to be present in the heart of the world by proclaiming the Good News to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and joy to the afflicted" (5).

As Jesus touched the leper, he modelled a way for us to live, a way of living that embraces the poor. Pope John Paul II wrote of the option or love of the preference for the poor in his encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*. This option, the pope, states, "affects each Christian inasmuch as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ" and should be part of decisions in our daily life as well as those in the political or economic fields. The pope directs, "love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future" (42).

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES DUBLIN AUGUST 2018

The Congress takes place in Dublin from 22 to 24 August 2018; The Festival of Families on Saturday 25 August and the final Mass on Sunday 26 August. *It would be wonderful for one, or more, families from our parish would attend this World Meeting of Families!* See www.worldmeeting2018.ie or posters and leaflets in the porch.

LIVERPOOL 2018 – ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE & CONGRESS I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE – 7 - 9 September 2018

For more details, see the poster and leaflets in the porch, click on webpage: catholicnews.org.uk/adoremus2018 or speak with Fr Andy.

Lectionary for Mass

All of today's readings involve Jewish purity regulations. Cultural anthropologists suggest that purity regulations are a kind of symbol system in which whatever constitutes an orderly cosmos (everything in its place) should be considered "clean." Whatever interferes with this orderly cosmos should be considered "unclean."

The First Reading describes how early Judaism treated one issue involving ritual purity – namely, skin infections. In an orderly cosmos, the skin is supposed to be intact. Therefore someone with a rupture of the skin, especially an oozing sore, was declared "unclean." Although it is often translated as such, the Hebrew word *Izaraat* does not refer to leprosy or Hansen's disease. The ancient rabbis believed that *Izaraat* was a skin disease that doctors could not heal because it was caused by sin.

This is what makes today's Gospel reading so extraordinary. A man who is known to have *Izaraat* defied the Law and approached Jesus. In response, Jesus did the unthinkable! He had compassion for the man, touched him, and healed him. The point of the story is that the coming Kingdom of God is not about excluding sinners but welcoming them and treating them with compassion so that they can be healed.

In the Second Reading, Paul expands on Jewish purity regulations in another way. He tells the Corinthian community that, whatever, they should seek to do what is best for others to the glory of God and the salvation of all.

Liturgy and Life

- (1) How can you grow in compassion during Lent? (2) Is there an area of your life that needs to be healed? Will you call on the Lord for healing? (3) How can your parish help members understand the option of preference for the poor?

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIED LIFE

Bishop Peter warmly invites you to the Diocesan Mass for Married Life at Holy Family church, Langley, Slough, on Sat 3rd March, gathering from 11.30am followed by Mass at 12pm. Bishop Peter will give his pastoral blessing to those couples celebrating significant milestones in their marriage i.e. 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 etc. If you are celebrating such a milestone, please contact Eamonn & Paola McMorrow on 07412 151517 or at mfl@northamptondiocese.com There are also slips which can be completed and returned to the address stated. All are very welcome to attend and refreshments will be available after Mass.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER St John's Church, Amersham Friday 2nd March 2018 – All Welcome!

We are looking for choir members. First practice: Monday 12th February 2pm at St John's. Please ring Brenda Liddiard if you can help. Tel. 727775.

Copies of **NORTHAMPTON DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2018** are available in the porch – priced at £5 each

Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £228.75

**TODAY – APPEAL FOR WORK OF
THE MEDAILLE TRUST**

Thank you for your generosity

FEBRUARY 2018 edition of The Vine

The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now available. **It's free of charge!**

Are you new to the parish?

If so, you are very welcome! Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.
All are welcome!

Infant Baptism and Marriage. By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

The Medaille Trust is a charity founded by groups of Religious congregations in 2006 to work against the evils of human trafficking in response to the plight of thousands of people who are being trafficked into the UK each year. The Trust has been a significant provider of support and safe house provision for the victims of human trafficking since then and continues to deliver outstanding care ten years on.

The primary mission of The Medaille Trust is the empowerment of women, men and children, who have been freed from the human-trafficking and the modern day slavery industry in the UK, enabling them to regain their dignity and self-worth. We do this by providing safe housing and offering opportunities for physical and psychological healing, rehabilitation and protection to the victims in our care.

Since 2006 the Trust continues to grow and meet the needs of the increasing number of victims identified in the UK. Now, 10 years on The Medaille Trust operate from 7 safe houses offering a total of 61 bed spaces to women, men and children. Our current range of safe house provision offers 3 dedicated women's houses, 3 male houses and 1 specialist family centre. With our range of safe houses located across the country the trust can offer a warm and safe home with a loving team of staff to assist with the 1st stage of the victim's recovery. For more information visit www.medaille-trust.org.uk .Today, we welcome Mr Tony Burton who will appeal for work of The Medaille Trust.